(c) the number of telephones installed till date; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to simplify the procedure of sanctioning and installation of telephones?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) During the current year about 7086 telephone connections have been sanctioned on the basis of recommendations of Members of Parliament.

(c) and (d) The exact number of telephone connections installed by field units out of the above sanctions, is not readily available. However, the field units have already been instructed to install all telephone connections on priority subject to technical feasibility and other departmental formalities.

**Illegal domestic and international telephone calls**

151. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and other major cities make illegal domestic and international telephone calls by bribing the telecom officials;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in this process some unsuspecting subscribers and Government have suffered losses;

(c) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take against such corrupt officials; and

(d) what remedial action Government propose to take in respect of the losses suffered by unsuspecting subscribers due to these corrupt practice?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The department has taken notice of the complaints published in the newspapers alleging that some persons are indulging in the malpractice of illegal international calls.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Vigilance Monitoring has been stepped up. Officials of the Telecom. Department found to be indulging in such malpractices are dealt with under the disciplinary rules.

(d) A committee has been set up in suggest Modifications to the Indian Telegraph Act with a view to provide for deterrent penalties for such offenders.

**Development of fisheries**

152. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to speed up the development of fisheries in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that World Bank has agreed to provide financial assistance for the purpose;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) the number of such projects likely to be located in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A World Bank Appraisal Mission visited India during June-July, 1991 and appraised a Shrimp and Fish culture project for implementation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal from 1992-93 onwards for a period of 7 years. The Project envisages:

(i) development of 3810 ha. brackish water land in Andhra Pradesh,